



## Official Statement on Religious Accommodation and Medical Intervention

With the coming of the Son of God, Jesus the Messiah, and today in the ministry of the Holy Spirit in His Church, God made mankind in His image.

He gave unto man dominion over the world as His steward and representative whereas man's life has transcendent value because of this act of special creation on the part of God. God's law, therefore, is the highest standard by which man, God's creature, is called to live and abide. With this, God has given man his body as an extension of His Temple as described using His words in Corinthians. Man is the ultimate steward and sole guardian of this extension of His Kingdom.

God's law provides for freedom, for liberty of conscience, and these realities are to be exercised by mankind in light of God's revealed will that man is to live for His glory always recognizing his own mortality and the briefness of life. The Christian is not to live in constant fear of death, and indeed it is for this reason that the gospel removes our dread of death and gives to us life eternal.

Christians therefore proclaim Christ's Lordship over all realms, for, as He claimed, all authority has been given to Him in heaven and upon earth, as in Matthew. In light of His Kingship, the Holy assertion that men and women have the right to refuse any medical interventions, mandatory medical procedures, actions, medications, or injections, whether these actions are ordered by the highest government authorities, or lesser authorities, such as an employer or local governing bodies. The highest power is, and always has been, that of Him. Worshipers may reject these mandates while protecting His Kingdom, their bodies; especially if and when they are convinced that these medical procedures could threaten their life or their wellbeing including physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually with God via scripture, psalm, or sincerely held religious belief in the word of God. Edicts with blatant disregard for Christ our Lord, is no different than of Caesar forcing Christians to recognize him as Lord, in Romans. However, Christians are not to be fooled or coerced and will always utter and confess that only Jesus is Lord and likewise shall only accept their guidance from the Lord Jesus Christ in this regard.

Christians believe and assert that their conscience can properly and validly submit to personal medical procedures, such as in the taking of tested and proven medications and vaccines, giving thanks to God whose ordering of His creation has allowed such wondrous advancements. At the same time, Christians can acknowledge and recognize that there exist many sound bases for a Christian to refuse similar treatments in protecting the extension of His Kingdom, their body, such as when they lack long-term safety information, have deleterious and dangerous side-effects, possible unknown impacts upon pre-existing medical conditions, and/or originate from, or make use of sinful acts. Likewise, one may be convinced that the demanded procedure arises from machinations of man, not of God. As such, these activities are opposed to God's truth and ways.

We assert, in the name and authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all Christians have the right and the responsibility to research fully the issues relevant to all such medical matters regarding their personal stewardship over His Kingdom. We also assert and support the right to either accept or refuse any such mandatory or compulsory procedures, including vaccination or other treatment, upon sound religious grounds in His name. We likewise call upon all governmental agencies, businesses, schools, employers of all types, to respect these deeply held religious conclusions and convictions, and to honor our religious liberty and freedom by granting religious accommodations, if requested, by His believers and our members.